

STATE SENATOR • HANSEN CLARKE • 1ST DISTRICT

Clarke Press Release

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SEN. CLARKE DEMANDS STATE OFFICIALS GET TO THE BOTTOM OF \$250 MILLION DETROIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS SHORTFALL

LANSING- State Senator Hansen Clarke (D-Detroit) stated that he will insist that state officials get to the bottom of the unprecedented \$250 million budget shortfall announced today by the Detroit Public Schools. Sen. Clarke indicated that he will be contacting the State Treasurer, State Auditor General and State Superintendent of Public Instruction to make sure there is a full accounting of how the school district could have made such a dramatic error in its budget estimates.

“It’s shocking that we are first learning of such an enormous deficit so late in the budget process,” said Sen. Clarke. “I will be asking those state officials charged with oversight authority to look into how these estimates could have been so wrong and what can be done to avoid such a thing in the future.”

Detroit Public Schools announced today that the shortfall would be 2 ½ times more than the initial \$78 million estimate and will likely result in the layoff of more than 2,100 public school teachers and personnel. The school district blames the shortfall on declining student enrollment.

“At a time when we need to be rebuilding the public’s confidence in Detroit Public Schools this sends the wrong signal to our families,” said Clarke. “We need teachers in the classroom

educating our children. This is largely an administrative problem but our teachers and students are paying the price.”

Detroit Public Schools have lost more than 30,000 students during the last eight years yet the school district has not developed an effective consolidation plan to deal with the enrollment loss.

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